



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

7401 Timberlake Road

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FEMA-1458-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #21

Wednesday, April 24, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12 Noon Wednesday, April 23, 2003, through 12 Noon Thursday, April 24, 2003. (*New Information in bold italics.*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544. Briefing meetings in DFO are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as follows: Commonwealth (COV) 8:30 a.m.; joint Federal/COV 9 a.m. The Department of Homeland Security threat level has been reduced to elevated (yellow).

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb.15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

3. WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny, highs 65-70, NW winds becoming SW 5-10 mph. Tonight: Cloudy, a chance of rain late, lows in the mid 40s, south winds 5-10 mph, chance of rain 30 percent. Friday: Rain, mainly in the afternoon, much cooler with highs in the lower 50s, SE winds 5-10 mph, chance of rain 80 percent.

4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Encourage participation in FEMA sponsored training classes for DFO staff.
- C. Implement program delivery strategies.
- D. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- E. Manage expectations of disaster victims.
- F. Anticipate actions for expanded declarations.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):****STATE CONTACT:** Shane Townsend, 434-832-8516

Individual Assistance request for the designation of additional jurisdictions:
(As of COB 4-23)

A formal request for the designation of additional jurisdictions has been submitted. The Commonwealth requested that the following jurisdictions be designated as eligible for Individual Assistance under Federal Declaration FEMA-1458-DR-VA: Augusta, Fauquier, Frederick, Gloucester, Lee, Loudoun, New Kent, Pulaski, Roanoke, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, and Warren counties and the independent cities of Danville, Fairfax, and Winchester. Awaiting reply.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):
(As of COB 4-23)

DUA is now available for qualified individuals who lost work due to severe storms and flooding in the following jurisdictions: Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell, and Wise counties, and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem. The deadline for applying for unemployment assistance is May 15. We have submitted a second request for DUA for any jurisdictions that are additionally designated for Federal Declaration FEMA-1458-DR-VA. Awaiting reply.

Tele-registrations:
(As of COB 4-23)

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	385	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	128	Arlington Co.	1
Montgomery Co.	41	Augusta Co.	1
Russell Co.	29	Bedford Co.	3
Tazewell Co.	35	Botetourt Co.	2
Wise Co.	149	Campbell Co.	1
Norton City	21	Franklin City	2
		Halifax Co.	2
Roanoke City	92	Henry Co.	2
		Lee Co.	2
		Pittsylvania	1
Salem City	110	Prince William	1
		Pulaski Co.	6
		Roanoke Co.	24
Total	990	Total	49

Inspection Services:
(As of COB 4-22)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	747
Inspections Returned to FEMA	734
Inspections Outstanding	30
Inspectors in the Field	6
Turnaround Time	1.03

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:
(As of COB 4-23)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for “housing repairs”.

Eligibility Rate	72%
Referrals	851
Approved	574
Ineligible	196
Withdrawn	25
Pending HA Categories	56
Amount Approved	\$798,392.00
Amount Disbursed	\$797,967.00

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance must await the allocation of the estimated state share of funding. Some ONA grant categories are SBA Ineligible Dependent.

Eligibility Rate	12%
Amount Approved	\$96,238.56
Amount Disapproved	\$0.00
Referrals	359
Approved	19
Ineligible	128
Withdrawn	8
Pending ONA Categories	204

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans
(As of COB 4-23)

Home Applications Issued	378
Business Applications Issued	43
Total Applications Issued	421
Total Applications Returned	83
Total Applications Approved	29
Total Applications Pending	27
Total Applications Declined	22
Total Applications Withdrawn	8
Total Amount Approved	\$215,600.00

The SBA application return rate is at approximately 19.7%.

We are currently coordinating with SBA to open SBA workshops. The workshops are likely to be placed in the DRC buildings at Salem, Buchanan, and Wise. The workshops are tentatively planned for opening on April 27, 2003.

Disaster Related Deaths Reported:
(As of COB 4-22)

Jurisdictions		Initial Reports		Validated Reports	
		No. of Fatalities	Source	No. of Fatalities	Source
1	Augusta Co.	1	News	1	EM Coord
2	Fauquier Co.	1	EM Coordinator	1	Community Relations
3	Frederick Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	EM Coord
4	Gloucester Co.	1	Daily Press	1	EM Coord
5	Hanover Co.	1	VDEM PA	Pending	
6	Loudoun Co.	1	Times Dispatch	3	EM Coord
7	Montgomery Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	EM Coord
8	New Kent Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	Community Relations
9	Pulaski Co.	1	VDEM PA	1	*EM Coord
10	Roanoke Co.	1	Local SitRep	1	EM Coord
11	Shenandoah Co.	1	Washington Post	2	EM Coord
12	Spotsylvania Co.	1	EM Coord	1	EM Coord
13	Warren Co.	2	EM Coord/News	2	EM Coord

* Ineligible – Foreign Diplomatic Status

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC):

The Virginia Department of Social Services has agreed to supply state DRC Managers for the following DRCs:

Reception Report

DRC	Salem City	Buchanan Co	Wise Co	Dickenson Co.
April 5	4	-	-	-
April 6	9	-	-	-
April 7	14	-	-	-
April 8	13	17	-	-
April 9	16	14	-	-
April 10	13	5	-	-
April 11	12	16	-	-
April 12	6	8	-	-
April 14	10	16	5	-
April 15	6	7	7	-
April 16	7	10	2	-
April 17	8	3	1	-
April 18	12	14	4	-
April 19	4	4	2	-
April 21	4	12	4	6
April 22	7	10	5	2
April 23	8	13	6	2
Total	155	151	36	10

The hours of operation for all DRCs are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. DRCs are located as follows:

- Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153 Phone: (540) 387-5461 Fax: (540) 387-5462.
- Buchanan County Courthouse, Main Street, Grundy, Virginia 24614 Phone: (276) 935-6567 Fax: (276) 935-8706.
- Wise County - 5701 Industrial Park Road in the town of Wise. Phone: (276) 679-4873 Fax: (276) 679-4398. This facility has been used in previous disasters as the DFO.
- Dickenson County Clintwood Fire Department building on Volunteer Avenue Phone: (276) 926-5317 Fax: (276) 926-5407.

As needed, we have coordinated short DRC extensions and all DRCs will close at COB (6 p.m.) Saturday, April 26. Department of Social Services personnel will be staffing the DRCs for the duration of the operation. Coordinated with External Affairs to develop and distribute flyers announcing DRC closures.

Coordinated with the Internal Revenue Service office in Richmond to get Disaster Tax Kits to the DRCs for distribution. IRS Disaster Tax Kits for individuals and businesses have been ordered from the distribution center. They were received April 22, 2003 and are currently in the process of being distributed.

B. Public Assistance (PA):**STATE CONTACT:** Bob Anderson, 434-832-8506

- Marymount College of Virginia – PNP – approved by FEMA.
- Kick-Off meetings were held for eligible snow jurisdictions on Wednesday, April 23, 2003 in Fairfax, Arlington, Frederick and Clarke Counties and Berryville.
- ***A Kick-Off meeting remains scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2003 in Loudoun County – 1 p.m. (Including Towns of Round Hill, Purcellville, Leesburg, Middleburg).***

C. Community Relations (CR):**STATE CONTACT:** Danny Hall, 434-832-8507

- No change.

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**STATE CONTACT:** Richard Dameron, 434-832-8475

- A floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA.
- A meeting with Roanoke Valley local officials [Roanoke County, Salem, Roanoke City, Vinton and Montgomery County] has been set for Monday, May 5, 2003 in Salem. The process for pre-applications/letter(s) of intent will be detailed. A similar session is planned for southwest Virginia communities in early May. This second session will probably be conducted in Wise, Virginia.
- State Hazard Mitigation staff, along with FEMA region III staff will meet with Congressman Boucher in Abingdon, May 24, 2003 regarding an HMGP application for Buchanan County.
- A National Flood Insurance Program Community Assistance Compliance visit was conducted with the Town on Vinton on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. ***The meeting report has been drafted and sent to Vinton.*** Community Compliance Visits will be scheduled for Montgomery and Russell counties and the city of Norton.
- ***DFO Mitigation staff continues to pursue a long-term strategy for development and use of Mitigation Success Stories beyond this disaster.***

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO)**STATE CONTACT:** Bob Lambert 434-832-8449

- Prepared and updated news releases for DR-1458 add-ons.
- ***Compiled digital photos for PAO VDEM Photo Archive.***
- ***Distributed news releases on septic system repairs and uninsured/underinsured property.***
- ***Reviewed Roanoke Valley mitigation success stories video program.***
- ***Finalized release on mitigating flood damage.***
- ***Prepared weekly summary news release.***

F. Legislative Liaison:**STATE CONTACT:** Marge Atkins, 434-832-8486

- *Notified* elected officials on transition of legislative liaison activities from DFO to VDEM in Richmond.

G. Information and Planning**STATE CONTACT:** Judy Hurley, 434-832-8538

- *No change.*

H. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:**STATE CONTACT:** *Harry Colestock*, 434-832-8560

- *No change.*

(s) Harry E. Colestock, III for

Michael M. Cline, SCOWAT
April 24, 2003/1405